

January 25, 1957

Dear Ed:

? Indeed.

Victor Twitty told us something of your schedule, so I haven't tried to contact you further until just now hearing of your return to New York.

Life is rather complicated at the moment. As you know, Stanford has offered me a professorship in Biology, and Esther and I have been pondering this. We had a wonderful time in California, seeing all of our friends from P.G. to Berkeley, including my brother Seymour who's at Berkeley with Maxia. (We were able to borrow a car and a nice little apartment in the hills through him, which made our 2 weeks even more luxurious).

But in addition, there has been a vacancy at Berkeley in Genetics (succeeding Clausen). They had considered my name, but for some reason thought there was no point in bringing it up with me. When I visited Berkeley, however, the matter was revived and, in fact, within a very short time this position was also proffered. On account of the haste, there are more loose ends, but if these are straightened out, the position would be a close match to the one at Palo Alto, and indeed to the one here (if calculated as of July '58, which is the soonest I could move).

These alternatives—someone has called them a cross-fire — are certainly the most attractive possibilities that have come up in a long time. But the situation here has also been rather fluid. Since we got a new dean at the medical school (John Bowers— whom I'd first met, interestingly enough, at Berkeley in 1950) there have been very encouraging prospects for a strong development in medical genetics (= microbial + exptl. mammalian etc. as well as human). Even before the California matters, we had reached some indefinite conclusions about my moving over to the medical school; there is a good deal of new construction going on and planned over there. The California 'crisis' has put the pressure on me (as much as on anyone else) to crystallize these plans —I would have preferred the luxury of letting them simmer for another year or two— and they are developing in an interesting and rewarding fashion. What we need now is some way to make up our minds! Do you think you could offer some detached advice? I wish we could get together to talk it over, but it is almost impossible for me to get away before our trip to London in March (we're flying direct from Chicago, but hope to stopover N.Y. on return about April 1.) Victor's 'fishing' in Mexico till about March 1, and it would be indecent and agonizing to postpone our decisions beyond then. I don't suppose there's much chance of your travelling this way before then.

Best wishes,